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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Technology Center 2100
MAR 21 2001

In re application of:

Ernest H. Zerenner et al.

Serial No.: **09/676,374**

Group Art Unit: **2161**

Filed: **September 29, 2000**

Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ANALYZING AND
SEARCHING FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT DATA**

I, John E. McGlynn, Registration No. 42,863 certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

On March 15, 2001
John E. McGlynn
Registration No: 42,863

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 3, 5, and 7 as follows:

A(3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of processing the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads comprises the step of processing the financial data to derive